

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-13, 17-19, and 25-33 are currently pending in the application, claims 2, 14-16, and 24 have been canceled and claims 26-33 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 5, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 25 have been amended; claims 20-23 are withdrawn. Applicants note that the amendment does not add any new matter and that all new claims are fully supported by the specification. More specifically, support for the amendment and the new claims can be found in the specification as follow:

Claim 1

[Definition of A]
Page 52, Lines 22-24;
[Definition of R⁵]
Page 53, Lines 1-14;

Claims 3 and 29

[Definition of Z]
Page 53, Line 26 - Page 54, Line 1;

Claims 26 and 30

[Definition of A]
Page 6, Lines 7-15;
both of the alkyl group and the aryl
group is exemplified as the examples
of the hydrocarbon group;

Claim 27

Support in claim 25;

Claims 28 and 31

[Definition of R⁵]
Page 53, Lines 15-25;

Claim 32

Support in claim 8;

Claim 33

Support in claim 9.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Action rejects claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly lacking antecedent basis for "N-[4-(tert-Butyl)benzyl]-5-{[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-oxy}naphthalene-1-sulfonamide."

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the above compound has antecedent basis in claim 1, which is parent to claims 18 and 19. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Action rejects claims 1-10, 12-19, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office asserts that there is no listing either by name or structure in the specification to support the proviso for the exclusion of three specific compounds that were recited in previous claim 1.

By the foregoing amendment, the exclusion of the three specific compounds in claim 1 has been deleted. Applicants note that the claims do not recite any other specific exclusion and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bender et al. (WO 99/37609 and its corresponding U.S.

family member U.S. Patent No. 6,417,181). The Action asserts that compounds 109 and 110 of Bender et al. anticipate the compounds of the rejected claims.

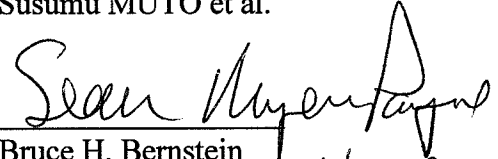
In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that neither compounds 109 and 110 of Bender et al., nor any other compound disclosed in Bender et al., falls within the scope of present claim 1 or any of the dependent claims thereof. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the art-based rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions or if any issues remain which can be expeditiously resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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